IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with <u>underlining</u> and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please AMEND claims 1, 3-4, 6, 8-9, and 12-17 in accordance with the following:

1.   (currently amended) A mediation negotiating method for mediating a negotiation between a <u>client</u>~~requester~~ and <u>suppliers</u>~~responders~~ <u>of goods and/or services</u> using an electronic network, comprising:

forming requesting conditions including a plurality of conditional items in which priorities have been allocated to request contents in response to a mediating request of said <u>client</u>~~requester~~ received via the network;

forming a negotiation field;

inputting said requesting conditions;

notifying, via the network, the requesting conditions to <u>a plurality of suppliers</u>~~responders~~ selected in accordance with said requesting conditions;

receiving, via the network, response information from the <u>plurality of suppliers</u>~~responders~~ who participate in said negotiation field; and

notifying, via the network, said <u>client</u>~~requester~~ and the <u>selected</u>~~other~~ <u>suppliers</u>~~responders~~ of the response information arranged in accordance with the priorities of said request contents;~~,~~ ~~wherein~~

<u>wherein</u> the formation of the requesting conditions comprises analyzing a<u>an</u>~~abstract~~ mediating request from the <u>client</u>~~requester~~ to form said plurality of conditional items;~~,~~ and

said plurality of conditional items includes conditional items formed from an inquiry to the <u>client</u>~~requester~~, conditional items automatically formed from <u>client</u>~~requester~~ information, and conditional items calculated from values of already established request conditional items.

2.   (previously presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein in said request forming, priorities are allocated to request articles or the request contents such as service, price, term of delivery, and the like, thereby forming the requesting conditions with said priorities as said requesting conditions.

3.   (currently amended) A mediation negotiating method for mediating a negotiation between a <u>client</u>~~requestor~~ and <u>suppliers</u>~~responders~~ <u>of goods and/or services</u> using an electronic network, comprising:

forming requesting conditions in which priorities have been allocated to request contents in response to a mediating request of said <u>client</u>~~requestor~~ received via the network;

forming a negotiation field;

inputting said requesting conditions;

notifying, via the network, the requesting conditions to <u>a plurality of suppliers</u>~~responders~~ selected in accordance with said requesting conditions;

receiving, via the network, response information from the <u>plurality of suppliers</u>~~responders~~ who participate in said negotiation field; and

notifying, via the network, said <u>client</u>~~requestor~~ and the <u>selected suppliers</u>~~other responders~~ of the received response information~~;~~<u>,</u> ~~and~~

wherein in said negotiation responding, when said <u>client</u>~~requestor~~ is notified of the response information inputted into said negotiation field, the response information ~~is~~ sorted in accordance with the priorities of said request contents is notified.

4.   (currently amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein in said request forming, <u>the</u>~~an abstract~~ mediating request from the <u>client</u>~~requestor~~ is analyzed<u>,</u> and one or a plurality of requesting conditions are formed.

5.   (previously presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein in said negotiation requesting, the request contents including the priorities in the requesting conditions inputted into said negotiation field are changed and inputted again.

6.   (currently amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein in said negotiation requesting, if there are a plurality of requesting conditions, <u>respective ones of the suppliers are</u>~~the responder is~~ selected under a condition <u>of corresponding</u>~~that he corresponds~~ to at least one of said plurality of requesting conditions, and the negotiation field between the <u>suppliers</u>~~responders~~ and said <u>client</u>~~requestor~~ is formed.

7.   (previously presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein

in said negotiation requesting, a negotiation term is set into said negotiation field and the requesting conditions are inputted, and

in said negotiation responding, the end of the negotiation is discriminated and the negotiation field is closed.

8.   (currently amended) A method according to claim 7, wherein in said negotiation responding, the negotiation field is closed by a negotiation decision instruction of said client~~requestor~~ or an expiration of the negotiation term.

9.   (currently amended) A method according to claim 7, wherein in said negotiation responding the negotiation term is extended on the basis of an instruction from the client~~requestor~~.

10.   (previously presented) A method according to claim 7, wherein in said negotiation responding, when conditions which have been preset are satisfied upon expiration of the negotiation term, the negotiation term is automatically extended.

11.   (original) A method according to claim 10, wherein when there is no response information or the number of response information does not reach a predetermined threshold value upon expiration of the negotiation term, the negotiation term is automatically extended.

12.   (currently amended) A computer-readable recording medium in which a mediation negotiation program has been stored, wherein said mediation negotiation program comprises:

forming requesting conditions including a plurality of conditional items in which priorities have been allocated to request contents in response to a mediating request of a client~~requestor~~;

forming a negotiation field;

inputting said requesting conditions;

notifying <u>a plurality of suppliers of goods and/or services</u>~~responders~~ selected in correspondence with said requesting conditions of said requesting conditions;

receiving response information from the <u>plurality of suppliers</u>~~responders~~ who participate in said negotiation field; and

notifying said client~~requestor~~ and the <u>selected suppliers</u>~~other responders~~ of said response information arranged in accordance with the priorities of said request contents<u>;</u>~~,~~
~~wherein~~

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wherein the formation of the requesting conditions comprises analyzing a~an~abstract mediating request from the clientrequester to form said plurality of conditional items;, and

said plurality of conditional items includes conditional items formed from an inquiry to the clientrequester, conditional items automatically formed from clientrequester information, and conditional items calculated from values of already established request conditional items.

13.   (currently amended) A mediation negotiating program which causes a computer to:

form requesting conditions including a plurality of conditional items in which priorities have been allocated to request contents in response to a mediating request of a clientrequester;

form a negotiation field;

input said requesting conditions;

notify a plurality of suppliers of goods and/or servicesresponders selected in correspondence with said requesting conditions of said requesting conditions;

receive response information from the plurality of suppliersresponders who participate in said negotiation field; and

notify said clientrequester and the selected suppliersother responders of said response information arranged in accordance with the priorities of said request contents;, wherein

wherein the formation of the requesting conditions comprises analyzing a~an~abstract mediating request from the clientrequester to form said plurality of conditional items;, and

said plurality of conditional items includes conditional items formed from an inquiry to the clientrequester, conditional items automatically formed from clientrequester information, and conditional items calculated from values of already established request conditional items.

14.   (currently amended) A negotiation responding method, comprising:

receiving request information inputted into a negotiation field formed on an electronic network;

receiving, via the network, response information from a plurality of suppliers of goods and/or servicesresponders arranged in accordance with the priorities of request contents inputted into said negotiation field;

preparing an initial value, a pitch value, and a lowest value with respect to a bid price;

inputting response information in which the initial value has been set to said bid price;

in the case where another response information with a cheaper bid price is recognized in said negotiation field, inputting response information in which the bid price has sequentially been corrected on a unit basis of said pitch value; and

in the case where a bid price of a competitor is lower than said lowest value, stopping the input of the response information and breaking off the negotiation.

15.   (currently amended) A computer-readable recording medium in which a responder program has been stored, wherein said responder program comprises:

receiving request information inputted into a negotiation field formed on a network;

receiving response information from a plurality of suppliers of goods and/or servicesresponders arranged in accordance with the priorities of request contents inputted into said negotiation field;

preparing an initial value, a pitch value, and a lowest value with respect to a bid price;

inputting response information in which the initial value has been set to the bid price;

in the case where another response information with a cheaper bid price is recognized in said negotiation field, inputting response information in which the bid price has sequentially been corrected on a unit basis of said pitch value; and

in the case where a bid price of a competitor is lower than said lowest value, stopping the input of the response information and breaking off the negotiation.

16.   (currently amended) A responder program, which causes a computer to:

receive request information inputted into a negotiation field formed on a network;

receive response information from a plurality of suppliers of goods and/or servicesresponders arranged in accordance with the priorities of request contents inputted into said negotiation field;

prepare an initial value, a pitch value, and a lowest value with respect to a bid price;

input response information in which the initial value has been set to the bid price;

in the case where another response information with a cheaper bid price is recognized in said negotiation field, input response information in which the bid price has sequentially been corrected on a unit basis of said pitch value; and

in the case where a bid price of a competitor is lower than said lowest value, stop the input of the response information and break off the negotiation.

17.   (currently amended) A method of operating a data processing system, comprising:

receiving ~~a~~an abstract mediating request from a client~~requester~~;

analyzing the abstract mediating request to determine a requesting condition, wherein the request condition can be determined from client~~requester~~ personal information, from a client~~requester~~ inquiry, or~~and~~ from a predetermined calculating expression;

communicating the requesting condition to a selected plurality of suppliers of goods and/or services~~responder~~;

receiving response information from participating ones of the plurality of suppliers~~responder~~; and

communicating the response information to the selected plurality of suppliers~~responder~~.